

April 26, 2011

Dear Representatives,

As teachers in this great state, we are writing to you to voice our concerns as to the direction education has been heading in recent years. Let us preface by saying that we understand that our state is out of money and has been for some time. This requires action on your part that we realize is not the most popular, but the most necessary for Michigan to recover and we support those initiatives. We would like to know that we have your support as well when you are making decisions about education. Looking at education in the past decades, we feel that everyone is losing sight of what is important; the students. Our union representatives are on a crusade to try and force those of us who do not support their ideology to strike, claiming it is in our students' best interest, all the while threatening that we will be fined and/or taken to court if we do not agree to pay the fines. It is very difficult for dedicated teachers to understand how walking out on our students, who trust us, to benefit ourselves, is in their best interest. We assure you that we are a group of teachers that will be at work even if the union decides to strike, as we do not believe in breaking the law, but it is up to you to protect our rights as teachers. Many of us have been laid off in recent years due to budget cuts because we happen to be toward the bottom of the seniority list; as we are forced to watch some teachers, who have been granted tenure, continue to collect a paycheck even though they are not doing their job. Our administration is unable to let those teachers go without enduring massive costs, due to the union and tenure laws, is this fair to our students? Tenure has got to go and the evaluation process needs to be less subjective. Administrators should not have to give us notice for when they are going to come in and observe our efforts in the classroom. This process just allows teachers who are normally unprepared to get themselves prepared for a lesson, is this fair to our students? Students should not have to face an incompetent teacher day after day, year after year due to tenure. Do what is right for our students, not what is right for special interests or the bottom line. Thank you so very much for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

jacqueline wright  
Rebecca Biederman  
Jill Smith

Morton Elementary Teacher(s)